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# Henry D'Alton Collins

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**HENRY D'ALTON COLLINS**

*The West Virginia Law Review dedicates this issue to Professor Henry Collins who retired in June 1983 after outstanding service to the University, the College of Law and to the Bar.*

## **HENRY D'ALTON COLLINS**

**E. GORDON GEE\***

Honoring a friend and colleague is a pleasure, but in this instance it is particularly so since Henry D'Alton Collins has contributed in a great variety of ways not only to the College of Law and its students but also to the University generally and to the Bar.

Rumor has long maintained that Professor Collins during his lengthy tenure taught from time to time almost all of the courses in the curriculum. A review of old catalogues confirms the accuracy of the rumor. The courses include, among others, real property, trusts, conflict of laws, accounting for lawyers, corporations, insurance, equity damages and, of course, federal income taxation and estate and gift tax which were his particular areas of academic specialization. I know of no member of the law faculty today who would even seriously consider teaching such a wide spectrum of courses. The days of infinite faculty flexibility appear to have passed with Professor Collins' retirement in June.

In addition to his teaching, which has touched a large percentage of the lawyers in West Virginia, Professor Collins also served as the first Director of Continuing Legal Education at the College of Law in 1962-63. He suffered through all of the initial problems of inadequate funding and staffing and convincing the Bar that Continuing Legal Education was important. Despite these problems, he was able to organize and present a tremendously successful two and a half day program on the Uniform Commercial Code which more than three hundred West Virginia lawyers attended.

Henry Collins also spearheaded the movement toward and vigorously advocated for a new law building which was desperately needed and which eventually resulted in the fine structure that now houses the College of Law. Without his tenacity, the construction of the new building might have been delayed even longer than it was.

His dedication to the College of Law is further demonstrated by his agreeing to serve as Acting Dean during 1978-79. The large College of Law Centennial Fund was established during his deanship. This fund supports many student activities that would not otherwise be funded. Also during his tenure as Acting Dean, the faculty was expanded and salaries were increased significantly.

The statement of Professor Collins' contributions and accomplishments so

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\*President, West Virginia University

far would seem to be enough for any one person. However, he served with distinction and unquestioned loyalty from 1976 until his retirement in 1983 as Special Assistant to the President.

For these and many other reasons, it is indeed appropriate to dedicate this issue of the West Virginia Law Review to Professor Emeritus Henry D'Alton Collins.